

**IN THE CLAIMS**

Please substitute claims 1-7 with the following:

1. (Currently Amended) A constant current driving unit for constant current driving a plurality of series connected devices by a pulse width modulating constant current driving circuit, comprising:

said plurality of series connected devices;

a bypass circuit including (a) a plurality of thyristors, each of which is connected in parallel with a respective one of said series connected light emitting diodes, and (b) a gate potential setting circuit;

a switching device for pulse width modulation; and

a resister connected in parallel with said switching device for pulse width modulation,

wherein,

said gate potential setting circuit ~~for affording~~ provides to said thyristors a gate potential value such that, when ~~the~~ said series connected devices are operating as normally, ~~the~~ said thyristors are in the off state,

said gate potential setting circuit ~~affording~~ provides to said thyristors another gate potential value such that, when said series connected devices are in the open state, ~~the~~ said thyristors ~~will be in a turned~~ are on state, and

said resister is coupled to said pulse width modulating constant current driving circuit such that current for maintaining the on state of a turned-on thyristor flows through said resistor.

4. (Currently Amended) A backlight light source unit for illuminating a display panel from a back side thereof, comprising:

a plurality of light emitting diodes connected in series;

a plurality of thyristors, each of which is connected in parallel with a respective one of said series connected light emitting diodes;

~~and~~ a bypass circuit including said thyristors and a gate potential setting circuit;

a switching device for pulse width modulation; and

and a resister connected in parallel with said switching device for pulse width modulation.

wherein,

said gate potential setting circuit for ~~affording~~ provides to said thyristors a gate potential value such that, when the series connected light emitting diodes are operating as normally, ~~the~~ said thyristors are ~~in the off state~~ in the off state[,]

said gate potential setting circuit ~~affording~~ provides to said thyristors another gate potential value such that, when said series connected light emitting diodes are in the open state, ~~the~~ said thyristors ~~will be~~ are in a turned-on state and,

said resister is coupled to said pulse width modulating constant current driving circuit such that current for maintaining the on state of a turned on thyristor flows through said resister.

6. (Currently Amended) A color liquid crystal display apparatus comprising:

a light transmitting color liquid crystal display panel including a color filter and a backlight light source unit, for illuminating said light transmitting color liquid crystal display panel from the back side thereof;

a plurality of light emitting diodes connected in series with one another;

a bypass circuit including (a) a plurality of thyristors, each of which is connected in parallel with a respective one of said series connected light emitting diodes, and (b) a gate potential setting circuit;

a switching device for pulse width modulation;

and a resistor connected in parallel with said switching device for pulse width modulation.

wherein,

~~a plurality of light emitting diodes connected in series with one another; and a bypass circuits each being a thyristor and each being connected in parallel with each of said series-connected light emitting diodes;~~

said gate potential setting circuit ~~affording~~ provides to said thyristors a gate potential value such that, when the series connected light emitting diodes are operating as normally, ~~the~~ said thyristors are ~~in the off state~~ in the off state[,]

said gate potential setting circuit ~~affording~~ provides to said thyristors another gate potential value such that, when said series connected light emitting diodes are in the open-circuited state, ~~the~~ said thyristors are ~~in a turned on state~~ in a turned on state, and

said resistor is coupled to said pulse width modulating constant current driving circuit such that current for maintaining the on state of a turned on thyristor flows through said resistor.

8. (New) A bypass circuit comprising:

a plurality of thyristors;

a plurality of voltage dividers each of which is coupled in parallel with a respective one of said thyristors;

voltage dividers comprising operatively coupled resistors; and

a plurality of series connected light emitting diodes,

wherein,

each voltage divider is connected to the gate terminal of its respective thyristor and supplies a gate potential value to the thyristor such that the thyristor is turned off during normal operation of said series-connected light emitting diodes and turned on when said series-connected light emitting diodes are open-circuited.

9. (New) A gate potential setting circuit for a backlight light source comprising:  
a plurality of thyristors;  
a plurality of voltage dividers each of which is coupled in parallel with a respective one of said thyristors;  
voltage dividers comprising operatively coupled resistors; and  
a plurality of series connected light emitting diodes,  
wherein,

each voltage divider is connected to the gate terminal of its respective thyristor and supplies a gate potential value to the thyristor such that the thyristor is turned off during normal operation of said series-connected light emitting diodes and turned on when said series-connected light emitting diodes are open-circuited.10.

10. (New) A gate potential setting circuit for a backlight light source comprising:  
a plurality of thyristors;  
a plurality of voltage dividers each of which is coupled in parallel with a respective one of said thyristors;  
voltage dividers comprising operatively coupled resistors; and  
a plurality of series connected light emitting diodes,  
wherein,

each voltage divider is connected to the gate terminal of its respective thyristor and supplies a gate potential value to the thyristor such that the thyristor is turned off during normal operation of said series-connected light emitting diodes and turned on when said series-connected light emitting diodes are open-circuited..